

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 21 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining (504) a user identification data item;
- determining (506) user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item; [[and]]
- determining (508), as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user; and
- sending (516) the configuration profile determined to a client station associated to said user.

2. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, implemented in a communication network that includes at least one client station, one server station, and at least one processing peripheral, in response to a request sent from a client station to the server station, further comprising the step of:

- obtaining (504) a peripheral identification data item, before said step of determining a configuration profile, such that a configuration profile applicable is then determined (508) as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral identification data item.

3. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the user identification data item and the peripheral identification data item are extracted (504) from a request sent by a client station to the server station, the request being a document processing request or a request to obtain a configuration profile.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to either one of Claims 2 or 3, wherein said steps of determining user characteristics and determining a configuration profile are accomplished by means of a database (44, 46) in which there are stored, associated together, peripheral data each representing an identity of a peripheral, user data representing user characteristics, and configuration data each representing a configuration profile.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

- if required by the client station, updating (604, 606) a configuration of the peripheral in a context of the configuration profile applicable.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 5, wherein said configuration updating step includes:

- receiving (500) from the client station a request for obtaining the configuration profile applicable;
- determining and sending (508, 516) to the client station the configuration profile applicable; and
- receiving (600) from the client station the configuration profile applicable with a parameter having a modified value.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the user identification data item is a chain of characters identifying a user and a password entered by the user in order to connect the user to the client station.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the user characteristics indicate a level of service subscribed to by a user.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein a level of service subscribed to by a user is defined according to a financial sum paid by the user.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the peripheral identification data item is a network address of the peripheral.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 4, wherein the configuration data each represent a configuration profile indicate an electronic address of a computer object containing a configuration profile.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the network is an Internet.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 11, wherein the client station and the server station communicate using an HTTP protocol.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the electronic address of a computer object containing a configuration profile is an address of a uniform resource locator (URL) type, and the computer object is an object defined in an annotation language of an extended mark-up language (XML) type.

15. (Previously presented) A method of obtaining a configuration profile determined according to a method as defined in Claim 2, comprising the following steps implemented in a client station:

- generating and sending (400-410) to the server station a request to configure an electronic document processing peripheral, the request including a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item; and
- receiving (412, 414) a configuration profile of the peripheral from the server station, in response to the configuration request.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

- displaying (416) the configuration profile; and
- modifying (420, 422) a current configuration associated with the configuration profile.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 16, in which the peripheral configuration uses a peripheral driver, further comprising the step of, when the peripheral driver is stored in the server station:

- sending (434) to the server station the configuration profile containing the modified configuration.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 16, in which the configuration of the peripheral uses a peripheral driver, further comprising the step of, when the peripheral driver is locally stored in the client station:

- using (426) the configuration profile for configuring the peripheral driver.

19. (Previously presented) A method of configuring an electronic document processing peripheral, said method comprising determining a configuration profile in accordance with Claim 1.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said device comprising:

- means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item;
- means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item; [[and]]
- means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user; and
- means for sending the configuration profile determined to a client station associated to said user.

22. (Previously presented) A device according to Claim 21,
wherein said device is used in a communication network having at least one client station, one server station, and at least one processing peripheral, in response to a request sent from a client station to the server station, and

wherein said device further comprises:

- means (42) for obtaining a peripheral identification data item, the configuration profile applicable then being determined as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral identification data item.

23. (Previously presented) A device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters for the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said device comprising:

- means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item;
 - means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item;
 - means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the peripheral;
 - means for obtaining (504) a peripheral identification data item, such that a configuration profile applicable is determined (508) as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral identification data item; and
 - means for determining a configuration profile,
- wherein the user identification data item and the peripheral identification data item are extracted (504) from a request sent by a client station to a server station, the request being a document processing request or a request to obtain a configuration profile.

24. (Previously presented) A device for obtaining a configuration profile determined according to a method as defined in Claim 2, said device comprising:

- means (36) for generating and sending to the server station a request to configure an electronic document processing peripheral, the request containing a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;

- means (38) for receiving a configuration profile of the peripheral from the server station, in response to the request to configure.

25. (Previously presented) A device according to Claim 24, further comprising:

- means (32) for displaying the configuration profile;
- means (38) for modifying a current configuration associated with the configuration profile; and
- means (38) for sending to the server station the configuration profile containing a modified configuration.

26. (Previously presented) A device for configuring an electronic document processing peripheral, wherein said device includes a device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said device for determining a configuration profile comprising:

- means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item;
- means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item; and
- means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) A server station connected to a communication network, said server station comprising a device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said device comprising:

- means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item;
- means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item; and
- means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user.

29. (Previously presented) A client station connected to a communication network, said client station comprising a device for obtaining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining (504) a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;

- determining (506) user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item; and

- determining (508), as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user;

said device comprising:

- means (36) for generating and sending to the server station a request to configure an electronic document processing peripheral, the request containing a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;

- means (38) for receiving a configuration profile of the peripheral from the server station, in response to the request to configure.

30. (Previously presented) A communication network comprising:

a server station; and

a client station,

wherein said server station includes a device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters for the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, the device comprising:

means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item,

means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, and

means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the peripheral,

and wherein said client station includes a device for obtaining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining (504) a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;
- determining (506) user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item; and

- determining (508), as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user;

said device comprising:

- means (36) for generating and sending to the server station a request to configure an electronic document processing peripheral, the request containing a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;

- means (38) for receiving a configuration profile of the peripheral from the server station, in response to the request to configure.

31. (Previously presented) A method of configuring an electronic document processing peripheral, implemented in a communication network that includes at least one client station, one server station, and at least one processing peripheral, in response to a request sent from a client station to the server station, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said step of determining a configuration profile including:

obtaining (504) a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;

determining (506) user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, and

determining (508), as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user; and

wherein said steps of determining user characteristics and determining a configuration profile are accomplished by means of a database (44, 46) in which there are stored, associated together, peripheral data each representing an identity of a peripheral, user data representing user characteristics, and configuration data each representing a configuration profile and

wherein the configuration data each represent a configuration profile indicate an electronic address of a computer object containing a configuration profile and

wherein the client station and the server station communicate using an HTTP protocol and

wherein the electronic address of a computer object containing a configuration profile is an address of a uniform resource locator (URL) type, and the computer object is an object defined in an annotation language of an extended mark-up language (XML) type.

32. (Previously presented) A method of configuring an electronic document processing peripheral, implemented in a communication network that includes at least one client station, one server station, and at least one processing peripheral, in response to a request sent from a client station to the server station, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said step of determining a configuration profile including:

obtaining (504) a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item,

determining (506) user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, and

determining (508), as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user; and

wherein the following steps are implemented in the client station:

generating and sending (400-410) to the server station a request to configure an electronic document processing peripheral, the request including a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item; and

receiving (412, 414) the configuration profile of the peripheral from the server station, in response to the configuration request.

33. (Previously presented) A device for configuring an electronic document processing peripheral, said device comprising:

means for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters for the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said means for determining a configuration profile including:

means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item;

means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item;

means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the peripheral; and

means for obtaining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining (504) a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;

- determining (506) user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item; and

- determining (508), as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user;

said device comprising:

- means (36) for generating and sending to the server station a request to configure an electronic document processing peripheral, the request containing a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;

- means (38) for receiving a configuration profile of the peripheral from the server station, in response to the request to configure.

34. (Previously presented) A device for configuring an electronic document processing peripheral, said device comprising:

means for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters for the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said means for determining a configuration profile including:

means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item;

means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item;

means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the peripheral; and

means for obtaining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining (504) a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;
- determining (506) user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item; and

- determining (508), as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user;

said device comprising:

- means (36) for generating and sending to the server station a request to configure an electronic document processing peripheral, the request containing a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;

- means (38) for receiving a configuration profile of the peripheral from the server station, in response to the request to configure;

- means (32) for displaying the configuration profile;

- means (38) for modifying a current configuration associated with the configuration profile; and

- means (38) for sending to the server station the configuration profile containing a modified configuration.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 31, wherein the user identification data item and the peripheral identification data item are extracted (504) from a request sent by a client station to the server station, the request being a document processing request or a request to obtain a configuration profile.